

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic The Dockery Hotel

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Elson & McPherson Sts. not for publication

city, town Kirksville vicinity of

state Missouri 63501 code 29 county Adair code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name The Dockery Company, Inc.

street & number c/o Larry Whitney, RFD 3

city, town Kirksville vicinity of state Missouri 63501

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Adair County Courthouse

city, town Kirksville state Missouri 63501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes ☒ nodate 1982 federal ☒ state county local

depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65012

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Highlighting the U-shaped Dockery Hotel is an ornate pressed metal 2nd story front facade which wraps around the NE corner of the building. The bracketed cornice extends along the N facade where there are 2 polygonal 2nd story bay windows, which also have pressed metal decoration (see photo 1). The decorative facade of this brick structure has unusual corner columns with enlarged capitals & piers. This motif also flanks the attenuated 1/1 windows. The wall surface is covered with a dressed stone patterned metal & beneath the brackets in the cornice is a fan detail (see photos 2-3). When the building was constructed it originally was the 2 story NE section. It was enlarged by adding a 2 story ell to the rear of this section (see construction line just to the left of the bay windows in photo 4) and by adding an L-shaped section to its S & SW. The total building then formed a U shape with an open courtyard to the rear.

The additions were built to complement the original: windows continued the segmental arch headers & general shape & size on the N, S & W facades. The later front facade was set back and a tall wooden gallery with 2nd story balustrade extended across both sections. Due to the widening of city streets the portion of the gallery across the original section was removed & the 1st story facade was slightly altered. In recent years part of the gallery (N end) was enclosed & made into a sleeping room, however the original facade remains intact. A number of 1st story, N facade windows have been temporarily enclosed (see photo 4). The interior retains its general floor plan, but most of the decorative embellishments have been removed through the years. Millwork, stairs & doors are of oak.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1891, 1904 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dockery Hotel possesses significance for its historical associations with the life of Thomas Jefferson Dockery, a prominent citizen of Kirksville, Missouri (Criterion B) and because it illustrates a type of commercial architecture characteristic of rural Missouri at the turn of the century (Criterion C). Further explanation of the areas of significance are included below:

ARCHITECTURE: The Dockery Hotel is the finest example of the use of a decorative pressed metal facade extant in the City of Kirksville & is typical of early hotel architecture as it existed in the Midwest. Originally built as the Leslie Hotel, a smallish, 2 story rectangular structure, it contained a large lobby with rooms above. Its period of promeniënce was after it was enlarged in 1904 by T.J. Dockery, however these additions continued to use the architectural motifs established by the early period of construction. At the time of its enlargement it was considered "beautiful structure with 75 elegantly furnished rooms" and the front was embellished by a "beautiful veranda 150' long & 14' wide making it look very much like an old fashioned southern inn". The extensive pressed metal facade & cornice, & the U-shaped brick structure embody the distinctive characteristics of commercial architecture built at the turn of the century using the most modern methods of construction & prefabrication of materials.

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT: Little is known of the orginial owner/operator, Mr. Leslie. The significance of the structure is most generally associated with Thomas Jefferson Dockery, who was born in Lawrence County, Indiana in 1845 & came to Adair County, Missouri with his parents, John & Mary, in 1855. He served in the Union forces from 1861 to 1864. Julia E. Linder became his bride in 1867 & bore him 3 children. During these early years T.J. Dockery taught school & farmed. In 1876 he was elected to a county office & moved his family to Kirksville. He served as County Surveyor & Bridge Commissioner for 8 years, during which time he platted the rural settlements of Adair (1879) & New Baden (1881). Dockery became a man of wealth through his land investments & his Real Estate & Abstract businesses. He also built & owned several of the most substantial commercial ventures in Kirksville, including the Dockery Building & the Dockery Hotel. Prominent in local politics, he served several terms on the City Council & 2 terms as Mayor (1899-1900, 1903-1905). Other political connections included serving 8 years as County Chairperson, as a delegate to the State convention at numerous times, & in 1900 he was selected as a delegate to the Republican National Convention. It is suspected that it was due to Dockery's policial associations, that Wm Jennings Bryant spoke from the Dockery Hotel during his 1907 presidential campaigning trip. Thomas Jefferson Dockery played an important part in the commercial & political life of Kirksville, Missouri until his death in November of 1922.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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COMMERCE: Chartered as a town in 1857, the City of Kirksville was soon to become the trade center for NE Missouri. Ten years later, Joseph Baldwin established his North Missouri Normal School & Commercial College which would become the 1st District State Normal School & later known as Northeast Missouri State University. The railroads arrived in Kirksville in 1868 & 1872 at which time the city's commercial ventures prospered. The next major increase for the town developed around the establishment of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. A.T. Still returned to Kirksville in 1875 & soon had a thriving practice. He also traveled around the State explaining his theory & treating patients. As his fame grew, so grew the City of Kirksville. Several hotels & boarding houses were erected to handle the large number of patients crowding the Kirksville community. Oral history indicates such is the case of the original Leslie Hotel. Supposedly it was developed with a large lobby so that the growing number of Dr Still's patients had a place to gather. In 1892, A.T. Still opened the American School of Osteopathy, however the 1st infirmary was not built until 1894, which explains the need for hotels & boarding houses. Of the numerous hotels meeting this need which included the Pool House, the Ivie Hotel, the Central, & the Steele, only the Leslie/Dockery remains. According to oral history, Leslie may have borrowed money from T.J. Dockery to finance his venture & upon not being able to meet the notes, Dockery then became the owner. Whatever the circumstances, T.J. Dockery acquired the hotel in 1895 & seeing the growing need for such a commercial venture, he made the enlargement & reopened the building as the Dockery Hotel on December 21, 1904. The next year, the ASO Hospital was constructed.

The Dockery Hotel, with its gallery, decorative metal facade, & 1st class interior, hosted a variety of Kirksville guest. By 1900 the business district had completely surrounded the courthouse square & extended 1 block in every direction. Complementing educational, commercial & medical ventures of Kirksville, the Dockery Hotel and its owner Thomas Jefferson Dockery played an integral role in the prosperity of the community.

NOTE: The Dockery Hotel has continued to serve Kirksville throughout the years. Currently it is being used as a hotel & residential units, the bus depot & a tavern. Its physical condition has deteriorated. Located just off the square, but in a commercial area, the hotel sits on $\frac{1}{4}$ of block 24, the South $\frac{1}{2}$ of which is filled by the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. Its urban setting does not allow for landscaping. No outbuildings are associated with it. The Dockery Hotel was recently acquired by new owners who are sympathetic to the integrity of the turn-of-the-century Kirksville landmark & rehabilitation plans are being discussed.

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Page 1

2. James M. Denny, Chief, Survey and Registration
and State Contact Person
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

October 20, 1982
314/751-4096
Missouri 65102

9. Major Bibliographical References

A Book of Adair County History, Kirksville - Adair County Bicentennial Committee, Simpson Printing Co., Kirksville, MO 1976.

History of Adair County, E.M. Violette, Denslow History Company 1911

"Hotel Dockery Opening" Kirksville Journal, December 22, 1904

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Kirksville, Missouri

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5
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5	3	5	3	7	0
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4	4	4	9	1	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

lots 5 & 6, Block 24, Original Town Kirksville, MO.; The building as originally built sat on lot 6. Due to the later addition & the U-shape, the Dockery Hotel now takes up all of both lots, extending along Elson & McPherson Steets & the alleys to the S & W.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda Donovan Harper, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Contract for the Dockery Company, Inc. date 10/1982

street & number #4 Shady Lane telephone 816/665-0806

city or town Kirksville state Missouri 63501

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

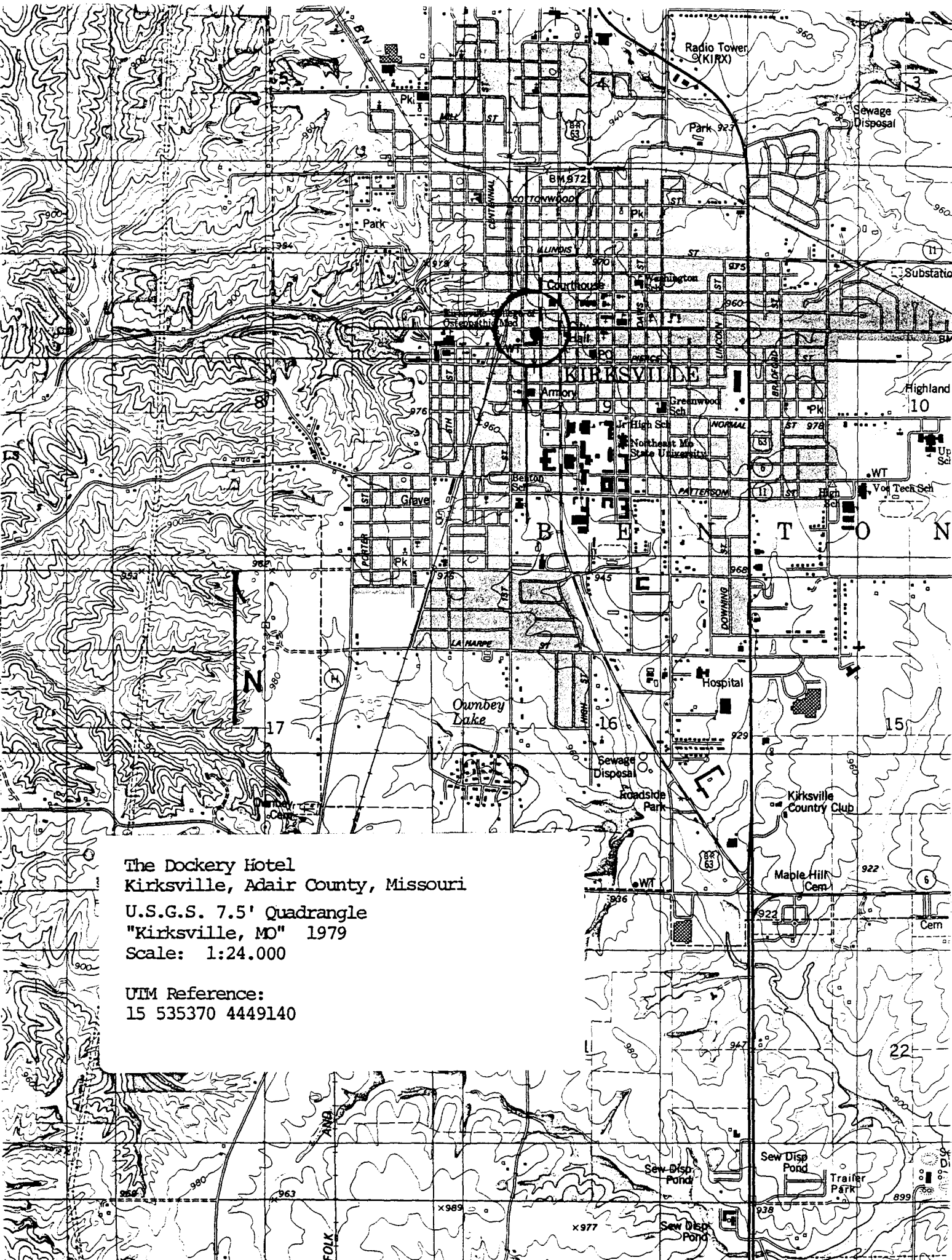
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

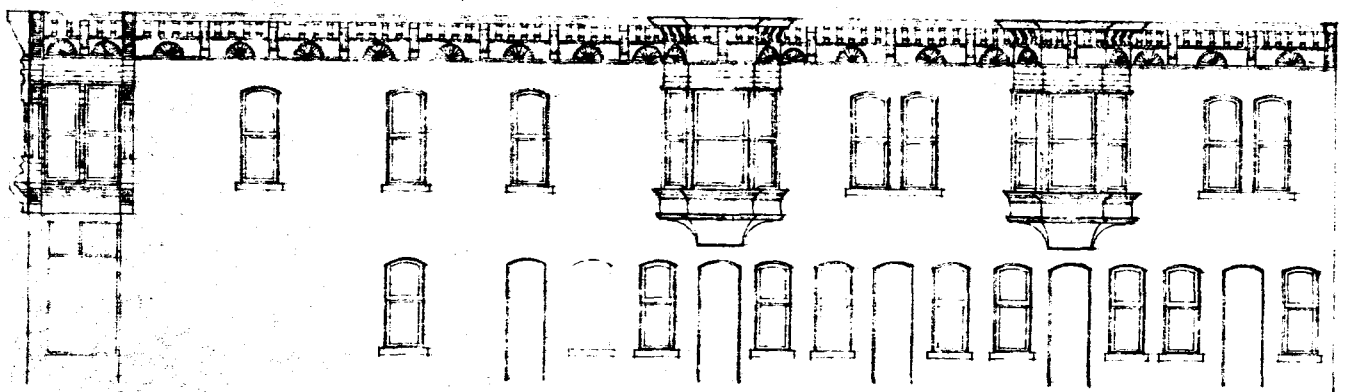
date

Chief of Registration

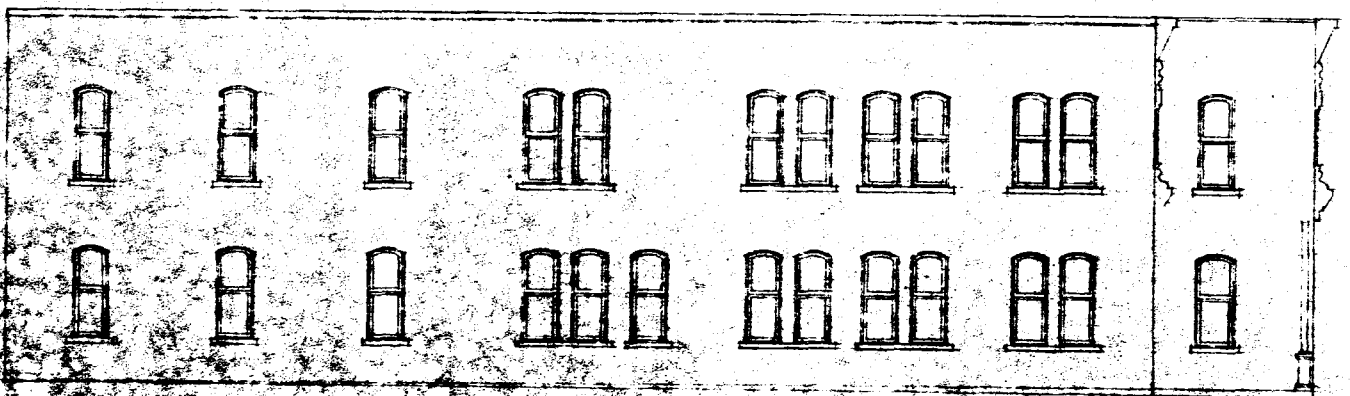


The Dockery Hotel
Kirksville, Adair County, Missouri
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
"Kirksville, MO" 1979
Scale: 1:24,000

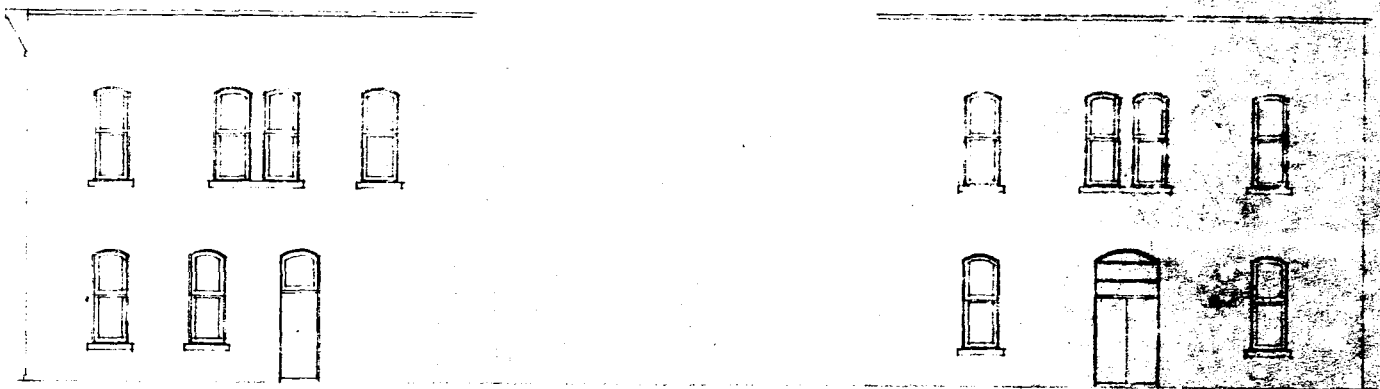
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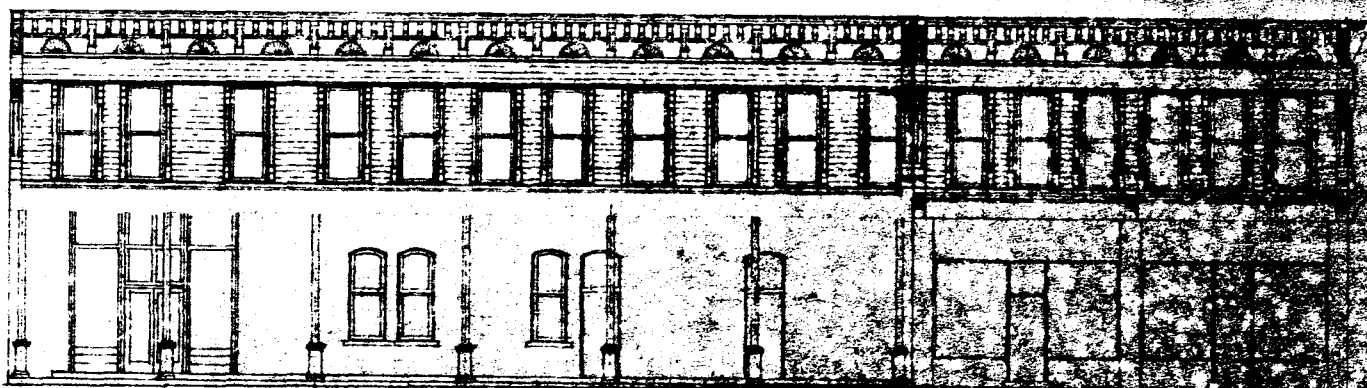
NORTH

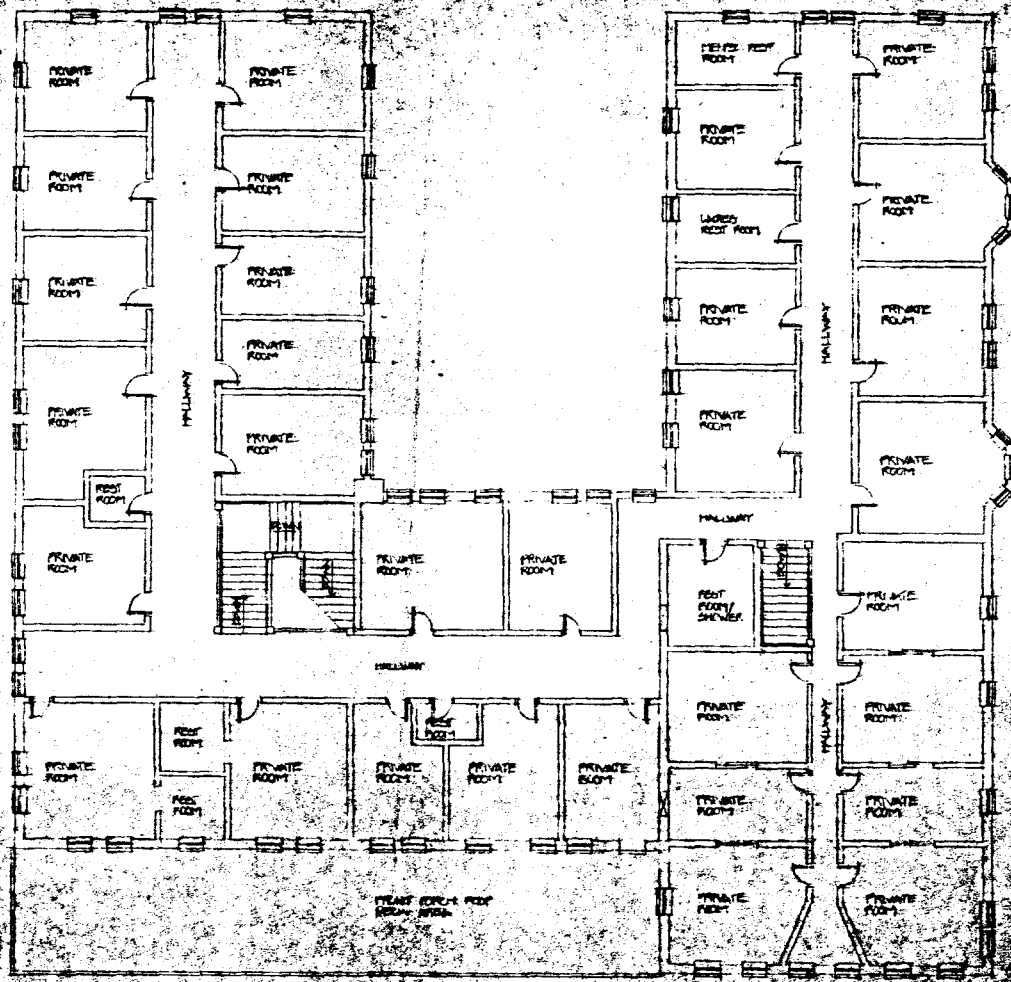


SOUTH



West







THE DOCKERY HOTEL
KIRKSVILLE, MO

6/79

NORTH FACADE

2



THE DOCKERY HOTEL
KIRKSVILLE, MO

6/79

EAST FACADE



2

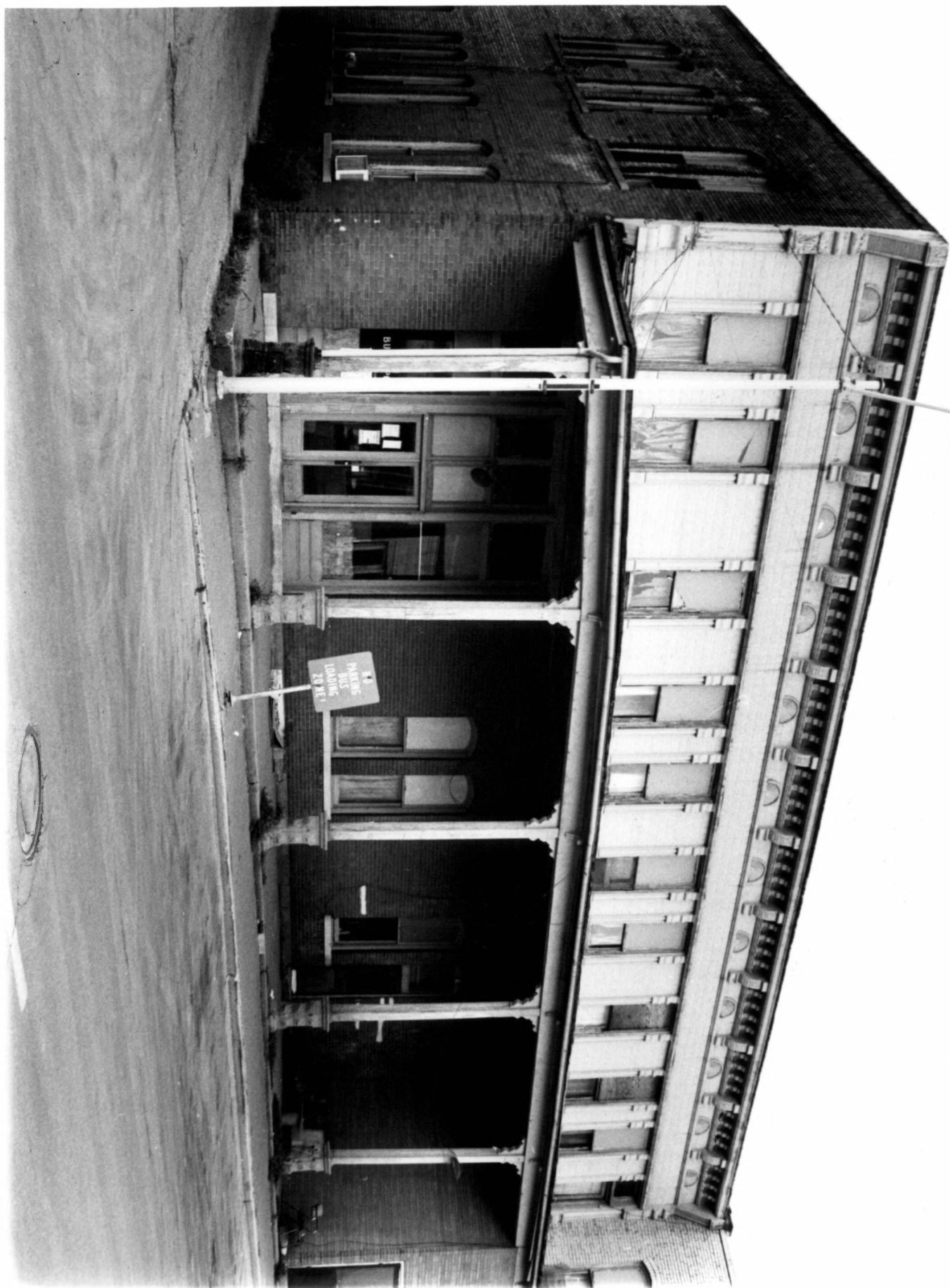


THE DOCKERY HOTEL
KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI

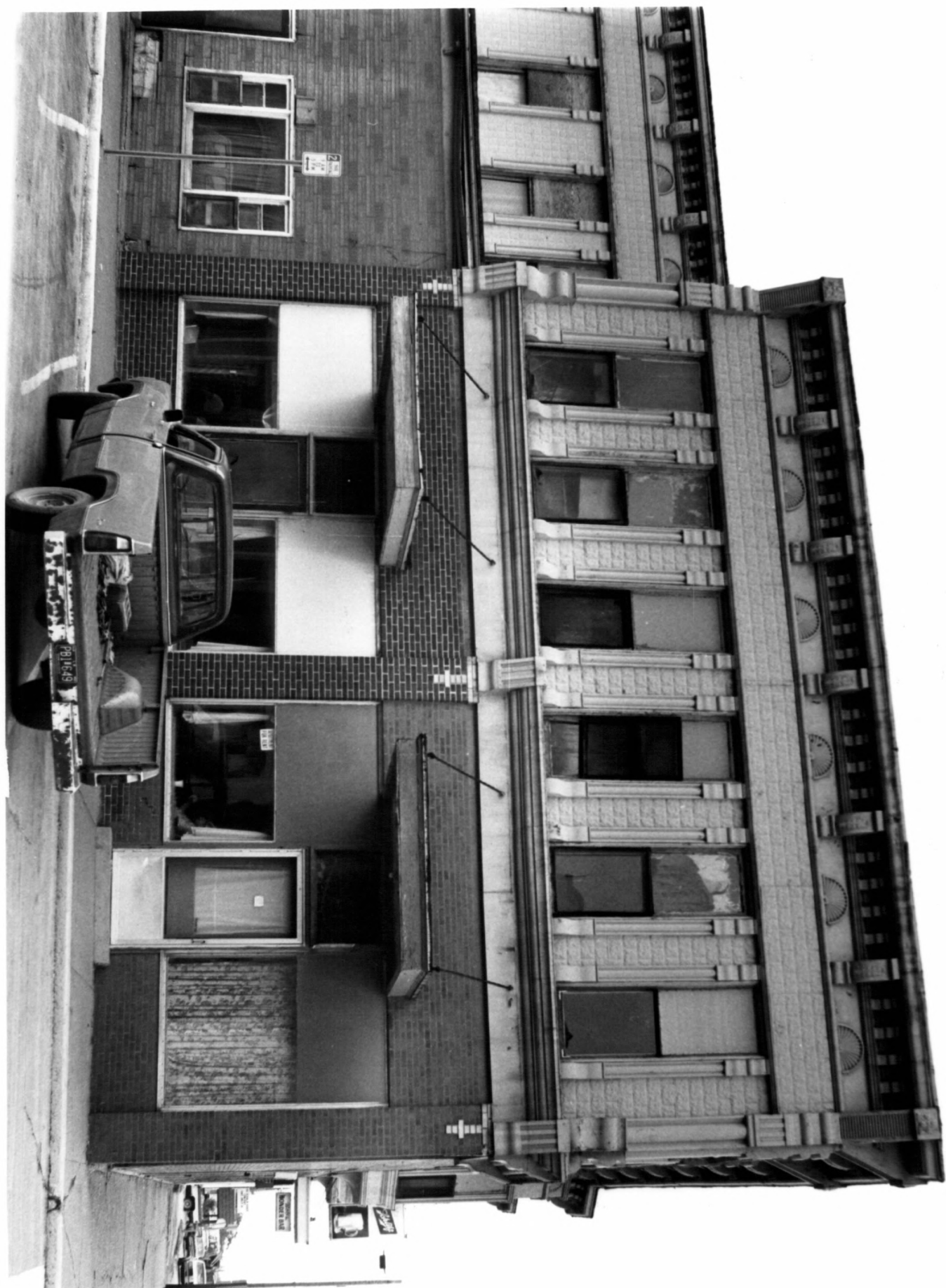
6/79

VIEW LOOKING SOUTH WEST

2



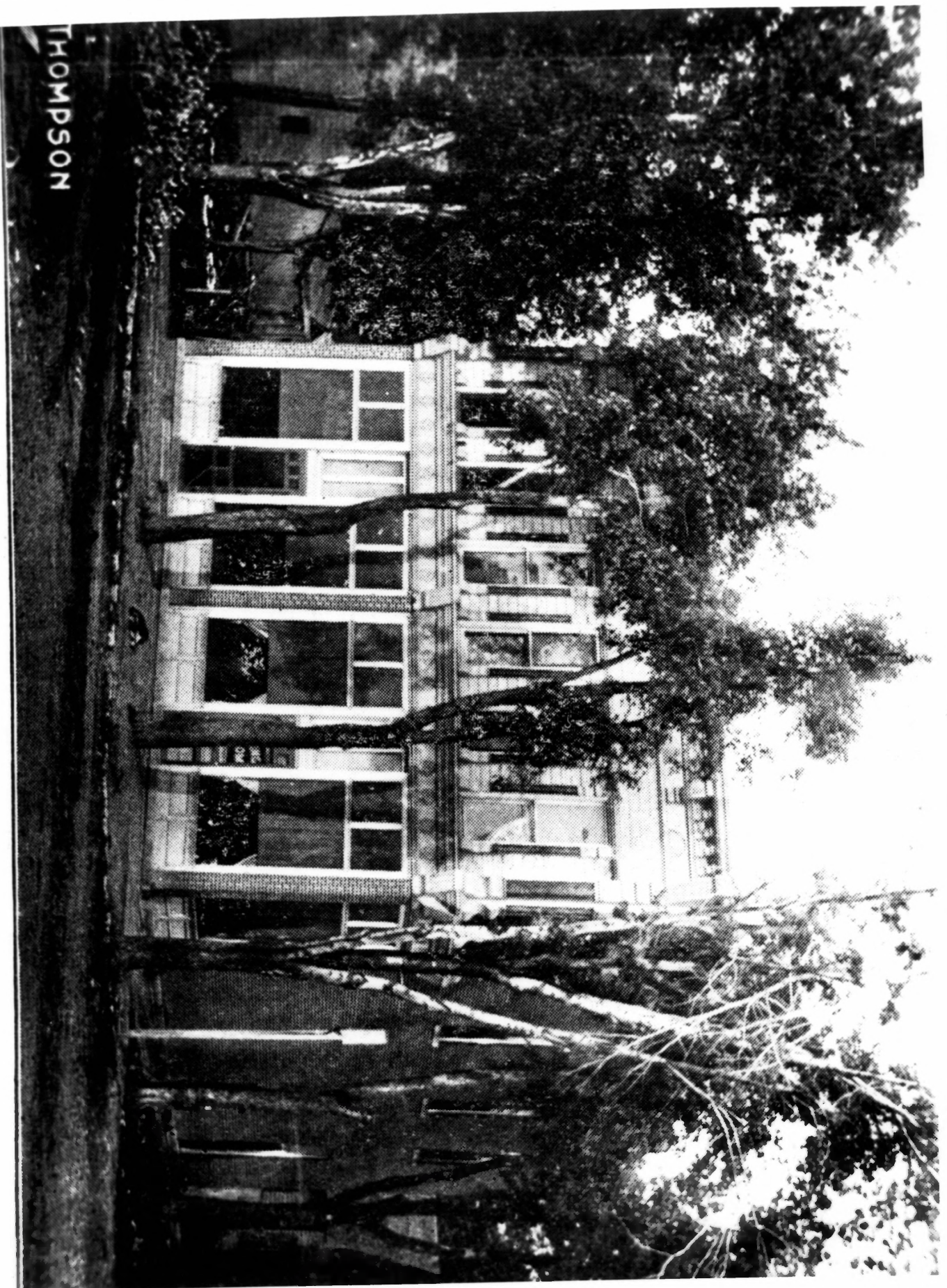
The Dockery Hotel
Elson & McPherson Sts., Kirksville, MO 63501
Photographer: Linda Donovan Harper
September, 1982
Negative Location: The Dockery Co., Inc.
c/o Larry Whitney, Kirksville, MO 63501
Looking NW; showing front facade of later
addition
Photo 3 of 8



The Dockery Hotel
Elson & McPherson Sts, Kirksville, MO 63501
Photographer: Linda Donovan Harper
September, 1982
Negative Location: The Dockery Co., Inc.
c/o Larry Whitney, Kirksville, MO 63501
Looking W; showing original front facade
Photo 2 of 8



The Dockery Hotel
Elson & McPherson Sts, Kirksville, MO 63501
Photographer: Linda Donavan Harper
September, 1982
Negative Location: The Dockery Co., Inc.
c/o Larry Whitney, Kirksville, MO 63501
Looking SW; showing front (E) & N facades
Photo 1 of 8



LESLIE HOTEL.—Owned by T. J. Dockery.

The Dockery Hotel
Elson & McPherson Sts., Kirksville, MO 63501
Photographer: Thompson
Date Unknown: Historic Photo c 1900
Negative Location: The Dockery Co., Inc.
c/o Walt Beard, Kirksville, MO 63501
Looking SW; showing original front (E) facade
Photo 7 of 8



The Dockery Hotel
Elson & McPherson Sts., Kirksville, MO 63501
Photographer: Linda Donavan Harper
September, 1982
Negative Location: The Dockery Co., Inc.
c/o Larry Whitney, Kirksville, MO 63501
Looking SW: showing N facade
Photo 4 of 8



The Dockery Hotel

Elson & McPherson Sts., Kirksville, MO 63501

Photographer: Linda Donavan Harper

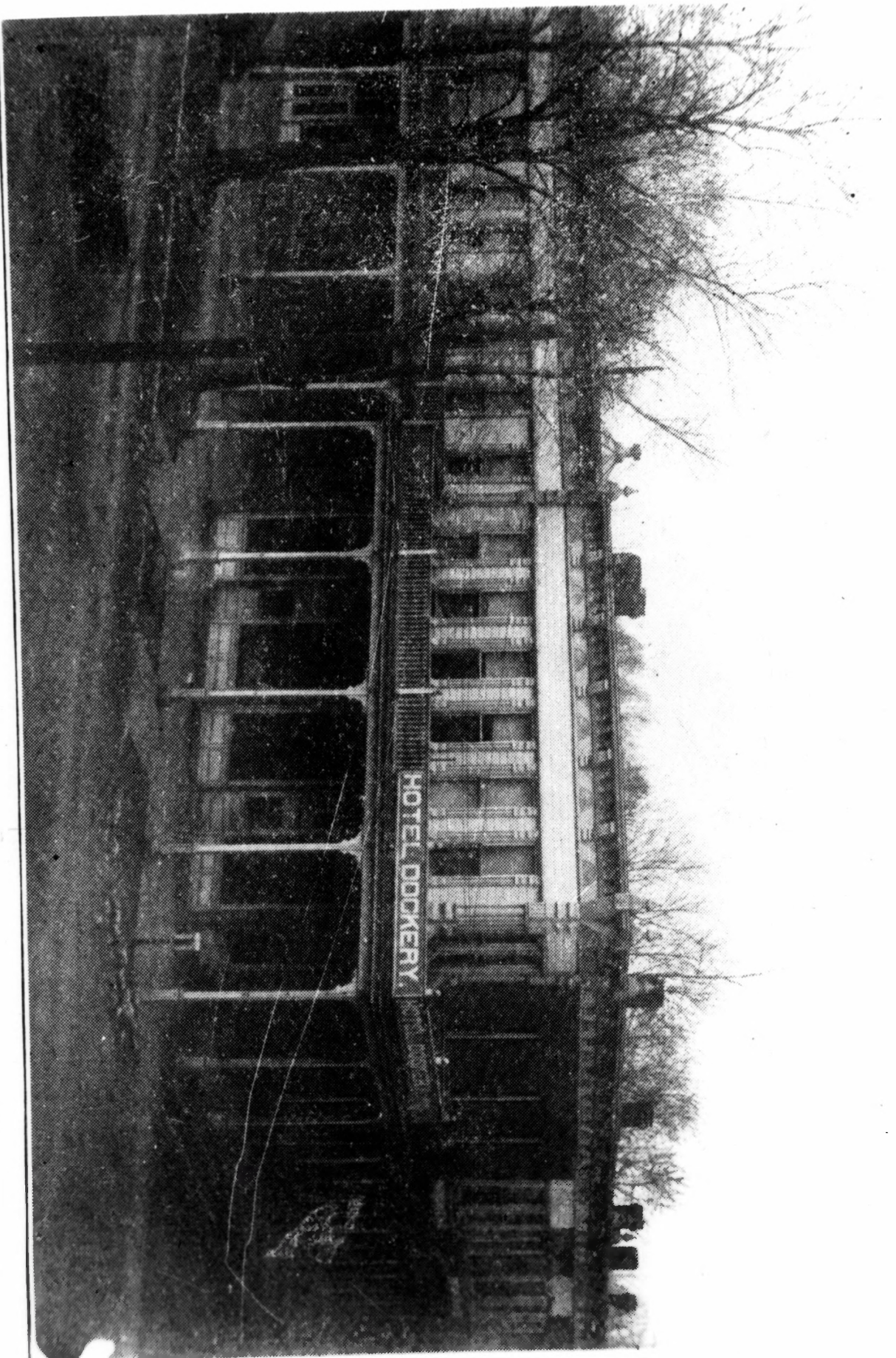
September 1982

Negative Location: The Dockery Co., Inc.

c/o Larry Whitney, Kirksville, MO 63501

Looking SE; interior walls of rear courtyard

Photo 6 of 8



Dockery Hotel, Kirksville. B. H. Stephenson, Proprietor

The Dockery Hotel
Elson & McPhersons Sts., Kirksville, MO 63501
Photographer: Unknown
Date Unknown: Historic Photo c 1910
Negative Location: The Dockery Co., Inc.
c/o Walt Beard, Kirksville, MO 63501
Looking SW; showing front (E) & N facades.
Photo 8 of 8



The Dockery Iotel
Elson & McPherson Sts., Kirksville, MO 63501
Photographer: Linda Donovan Harper
September, 1982
Negative Location: The Dockery Co., Inc.
c/o Larry Whitney, Kirksville, MO 63501
Looking SE; showing rear (W) facades & indicates U-shape of building
Photo 5 of 8